

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 7 and 14-20 were canceled; claims 1 and 8 were amended; and no claims were added. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate allowable subject matter from dependent claim 7. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claim 1 prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 14-20 are not patentable. Claim 1 was amended and claims 14-20 were cancelled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue claims 14-20, the subject matter encompassed by claim 1 as presented prior to this Amendment, and additional claims in one or more continuing applications. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Thompson for all the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the January 24, 2008 telephone interview. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from dependent claim 7. During the interview, Examiner Thompson indicated that the above amendments to the claims would overcome the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over the cited references.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Thompson for indicating that claims 7-8, 13, and 18-19 are allowable. Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 7. Claim 7 is canceled. Therefore, Applicants believe claims 1-6, 8-13 are in condition for allowance.

III. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 7-8, 13, and 18-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 7 and 13-20 are canceled. Claims 8 and 13 are dependent on claim 1, which has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 7. Therefore, the objections to the claims have been overcome.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited prior art and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: January 31, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

/Mari Stewart/

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